



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union

To the

Judiciary Committee

In Support of Raised Bill No. 386

To Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Richard Holton and I am the President of the Hartford Police Union which is comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains, we appreciate your dedication and support of those who enforce the laws that are passed in these hallowed halls by recognizing and adding: Fire marshals, Fire Inspectors, Building Officials and Assistant Building Officials to Connecticut General Statute 53a-167c.

It's one thing to add individuals to a group but it is another to hold individuals accountable. That is why I am encouraging this committee to establish a mandatory minimum sentence for anyone who assaults or attacks an individual who falls under this statute.

Based on most estimates Public Safety officials who are assaulted are arguably one of the most pervasive victim classes in the country. On average approximately 50-60 thousand Law Enforcement officers are assaulted or killed in the line of duty, while trying to keep families all across this country safe. In the Capitol City alone there is an average of 45-60 Police Officers assaulted a year while performing their duties.

To have a law on the books that doesn't have any bite and a certain segment of society sees it as toothless, is disingenuous to those who are charged with enforcing the law.

We believe it is the role of our Legislators to provide some type of additional deterrent to those members of society who resist these efforts at the risk of injury and assault on our Public Safety Officials. Adding a mandatory sentence to SB 386 will send a clear message to that segment of society that wishes to do harm and create chaos that when you assault/attack the very individuals charged with keeping society safe there will be severe consequences.

Sergeant Richard Holton

Hartford Police Union Vice President